Daily Report

Latin America

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Cuba

USSR Deputy Chairman Kamentsev Continues Tour

Meets With Castro

FL211325 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro Ruz, president of the Council of State and of the government, met last night with Vladimir M. Kamentsev, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers and chairman of the Cuba-USSR Joint Intergovernmental Committee, who's on a working visit to our country. The meeting was held in a fraternal and friendly atmosphere and the two men talked about Kamentsev's impressions of his tour of important development programs and projects under construction in Cuba. Some of the places visited were the Moa nickel plan, the electronuclear center, the Cienfuegos refinery, and the pipeline which will connect the refinery with the Matanzas supertanker base. He also saw the impressive citrus plan being developed in Jaguey Grande. He next will visit the electronic development program in Pinar del Rio and a sugar mill built by the revolution.

Fidel and Kamentsev reviewed the current situation and the prospects for Soviet cooperation in a large number of Cuban plans. They also discussed the main aspects of our two countries' economic relations.

Visits Production Centers

FL201323 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1112 GMT 20 Jan 88

[Text] Vladimir Kamentsev, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, yesterday toured the Victoria de Giron scientific-production citrus complex and highly praised the importance of that center, not just for Cuba's economy, but also as a food source for other CEMA countries. Kamentsev also praised the efforts of the workers and students to increase the number of citrus plants in Jaguey Grande Municipality in Matanzas.

Luis Alvarez de la Nuez, alternate member of the PCC Politburo and first party secretary of Matanzas Province, told the high-level Soviet official that the pla.. will allow the production of 5 million quintals of citrus in the first 4 months of this year and 9 million quintals in December.

Kamentsev also toured the crocodile breeding center in Boca de Guama.

The Soviet deputy chairman previously visited the 148-km oil pipeline site that will unite the Matanzas supertanker base with the oil refinery which is being constructed in Cienfuegos.

Kamentsev reported that by mid-year, 300 Soviet specialists will be participating in the oil pipeline project. It will be called "De la Amistad" and an equal number of Cubans, who are being selected, will also work in these tasks.

The principal installations of the first stage of the refinery should also be finished this year. Fundamental tests will be made next year and refinery tasks should begin in July 1989.

Kamentsev also toured the electronuclear construction project in Juragua and the nuclear city, which are known as the "Work of the Century." The project includes the construction of 2,100 homes for those who operate the plant. Approximately 1,400 of these homes have been finished.

He also learned about the health network in the city of Cienfuegos, the industrial zone, the historic area, and Punta Gorda.

Jorge Risquet Meets With Viktor Komplektov

FL220028 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2044 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Text] Jorge Risquet Valdes, member of the PCC Politburo, has met at the PCC Central Committee headquarters with Viktor Komplektov, deputy foreign minister of the USSR and member of the CPSU Central Auditing Commission.

During the cordial meeting, several aspects of the multifaceted and fraternal Cuban-Soviet relations were discussed. In addition, they referred to current international events, especially those related to our continent.

Komplektov also held talks with Manuel Pineiro, member of the PCC Central Committee and chief of the America Department. The Soviet deputy minister is paying a short working visit to our country at the invitation of the Cuban Foreign Ministry.

Malmierca, Sodre Conclude Talks in Brazil

FL211420 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1115 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Text] Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca and his Brazilian counterpart, Roberto de Abreu Sodre, have concluded political talks in Brasilia which focused in particular on the situation in Haiti, Latin American integration, and South Africa's military threat to Angola. Malmierca did not dismiss the possibility of an American maneuver to intervene in Haiti as the United States did in the sixties in the Dominican Republic.

Concerning Cuba's possible return to the OAS, Malmierca stressed that our country is part of that America extending from the Rio Bravo to the Patagonia. However, we must study the right time to return to the OAS, from which we were unjustly expelled 24 years ago.

Malmierca noted that history has demonstrated how unjust that decision was; reversing it would only be right. Latin American unity would grow and become stronger.

As to the foreign debt, Malmierca stated Cuba has shown there are no resources to pay the $400 billion owed by Latin America. Therefore it cannot be paid. The problem would be solved, Malmierca added, if the costs of the arms race were to be cut down by only 15 percent, because the money wasted in arms buildups would be enough to take care of the Third World's debt. He also emphasized that the problem of the foreign debt is intimately linked to the need to do away with unequal trade, protectionism, dumping, and other ills which can only be solved by a new international economic order.

Touching on Central America, Malmierca pointed out that the main provision of the Esquipulas peace agreements calls for an end to aid to irregular forces. We all know, he stressed, that President Reagan has alleged to continue to support the anti-Sandinist groups in every way.

Malmierca said if South Africa withdrew from Namibia and, along with the United States, stopped helping the UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] counterrevolutionaries, the Cuban internationalists could leave Angola. However, without these safeguards and conditions also set out by the Luanda government, we will stay there as long as necessary.

Havana on 'Destabilization Plans' in Panama

PA151417 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 13 Jan 88

["Our America" commentary read by Manolo Ortega]

[Text] During his recent visit to Canada, the head of U.S. diplomacy, George Shultz, publicly admitted the United States is involved in destabilization plans against the current Panamanian authorities and he specifically hopes the chief of the Defense Forces, General Manuel Antonio Noriega, will be dismissed.

The issue resurfaced recently when Noriega went on a quick visit to the Dominican Republic which led to all sorts of U.S. media speculation. It was even said that Noriega had met in the capital of the Dominican Republic with Richard Armitage, U.S. under secretary of defense, who had exerted pressure on the Panamanian military chief to leave his post. According to the Panamanian officer, the conversation had nothing to do with the rightist sectors' hopes.

All speculation aside, the truth is that the Ronald Reagan government is very interested in a political change in Panama which will allow it to place that nation on the side of the aggressive track Washington is taking concerning Central America. This would first entail eliminating those individuals and political groups who defend Torrijist principles and who are determined that the Panama Canal will return to Panama at the end of the century, as stipulated in the agreements the Carter administration signed in 1979.

Until now, Panama has displayed an admirable attitude on the Central American issue. It is even among the founders of the Contadora Group, the first regional initiative to resolve, among Latin Americans, conflicts in our area.

On the other hand, dismantling the network of U.S. military bases in the Canal Zone and losing total control over this important waterway is not at all in line with the notions governing the foreign policy of the White House team. For several months now, U.S. Ambassador to Panama Arthur Davis and other alleged members of that diplomatic office have been openly plotting with Panamanian rightist groups to destabilize the government and provoke a change which will coincide with the interests of the imperialists.

The United States has encouraged and financed the rightist marches organized by the so-called National Civic Crusade in Panama. The most backward sectors of Panamanian society form part of that so-called crusade. Alleged U.S. diplomats participated in these marches and were arrested. This clearly demonstrates these individuals are quite involved in the alleged social agitation which marked the last months of 1987 in Panama.

The Civic Crusade and the Christian Democratic Party—the instruments of this reactionary plot—feel the crisis can be eased by forming a provisional government junta which will call for elections in 18 months. This entails dissolving the current administration. In this manner, 1988 begins in Panama with renewed efforts by the United States to intervene. Everything seems to indicate the Panamanian people have important days of struggle ahead in ensuring the compliance of the canal treaties, which, for the first time in its national history, will see Panama gain full rights over its main natural resource.

Spanish Senate Delegation on Week-Long Visit

Rodriguez on Prisoner

LD161342 Madrid Domestic Service in Spanish 0700 GMT 16 Jan 88

[Text] Cuban Vice President Carlos Rafael Rodriguez told Jose Federico de Carvajal, president of the Spanish Senate that the Cuban Government will release political prisoner Juan Alberto Valdes Teran. Eduardo Sanz reports:

[Sanz] The Senate president is on a visit to Cuba with parliamentarians of the CDS [Democratic and Social Center] and the PNV [Basque Nationalist Party], and Joaquin Ruiz Jimenez, the former ombudsman, to award the Senate's gold meal to Fidel Castro. Carvajal had already displayed his interest in Valdes' release.

Juan Alberto Valdes Teran, who is now 71 years old, was a member of the Federation of Transport Workers in Cuba. It is not known at present where he is being held. The confirmation of Valdes' release has coincided with a campaign which the Popular Alliance deputies were carrying out directed at the EEC Council of Ministers urging it to speak out on this prisoner's situation, and more specifically at Fidel Castro's previous statements in which he had announced the decision never to release Cuban political prisoner Juan Alberto Valdes Teran.

Embassy Hosts Reception

FL151920 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 15 Jan 88

[Text] The Spanish Embassy in Cuba has hosted a reception in honor of Jose Federico Carvajal, president of the Spanish Senate, who is visiting Cuba at the invitation of the National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP].

Representatives of the diplomatic corps and leaders of the revolutionary government attended the event at the Spanish Embassy in Havana. Among them were Jesus Montanes, Faustino Perez, Jose Ramon Fernandez, and Severo Aguirre del Cristo, vice president of the ANPP.

[Begin recording of Carvajal interview by reporter] [Carvajal] I feel as if I was in Spain. I believe this is an extraordinary country, of extraordinary people. I was in Santiago de Cuba yesterday and I told Eddie [Eduardo] Fernandez, president of the ANPP in Santiago de Cuba, that I thought I was in Sevilla. I can say only one thing. I feel as if I had not left Spain.

[Reporter] Have you fulfilled the objectives you had set for this visit?

[Carvajal] My visit has not ended yet. I still have to meet with Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, vice president of the Republic, and with Mr Fidel Castro, Commander in Chief and President. [end recording]

Rodriguez Meets Carvajal

FL160005 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2335 GMT 15 Jan 88

[Text] Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers, yesterday received the Spanish Senate delegation headed by Mr Jose Federico de Carvajal Perez.

The Cuban leader briefed the Spanish parliamentarian and his delegation on our country's social development. The two leaders had a productive exchange of views on topics of mutual interest.

Carvajal Visits Cienfuegos

FL151619 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 15 Jan 88

[Text] The Spanish Senate delegation headed by its president, Jose Federico Carvajal, has toured several production and construction centers in Cienfuegos. They visited the tricontinental bulk sugar terminal, the fishery and industrial center facilities, and the nuclear power plant under construction. Mr Carvajal told the press he felt very happy in Cuba, that the talks held up to now had been very fruitful, and that when he visited Santiago he felt as if he was in Sevilla.

Carvajal Visits Santiago

FL141550 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 14 Jan 88

[Text] Jose Federico Carvajal Perez, president of the Spanish Senate, is paying a visit to the hero city of the Republic, Santiago de Cuba. In his tour through the historical sites of the attack on the Moncada Barracks and the Baconao Park tourist facilities, the Spanish leader was able to notice the territory's socioeconomic progress. Carvajal said he was moved by his visit to Santiago de Cuba's Morro Castle where he threw a floral wreath into the sea in honor of a group of Spanish sailors who died there during the 1895 war.

Carvajal Comments on Trip

FL181313 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 18 Jan 88

[Text] The Spanish Senate delegation visiting us left yesterday afternoon. Prior to departure, the president of the Spanish Senate gave a news conference, which was covered by our colleague, Clotilde Serrano.

[Begin recording of Spanish Senate President Jose Francisco de Carvajal] My objective—this must be stressed—was to accept the invitation from the president of the National Assembly of the People's Government . The Gold Medal is a present, a gift, from the Senate which we award to the chiefs of state of the countries we visit and who receive us.

My impressions of my talk with the Cuban president can only be termed extraordinary. He is a man with an extraordinary personality. I must say in the name of the delegation and in my own, that we are leaving Cuba feeling very pleased. We have been received with complete cordiality by all Cuban figures and officials. Although it lasted 7 days, ours was still a quick visit, but we had a chance to see several cities, including Santiago and Cienfuegos. We visited industrial and cultural centers, and child care centers. We saw projects under construction, the work of the minibrigades. This has certainly added to our experience. [end recording]

Ugandan President Museveni Tours Country

Visits Cienfuegos

FL152000 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 15 Jan 88

[Text] Yoweri Museveni, president of the Republic of Uganda and of the National Resistance Council, arrived this morning in Cienfuegos. Jorge Risquet Valdes, member of the PCC Politburo, accompanied Museveni and his entourage on their trip. The distinguished guest was welcomed at the Cienfuegos airport by Humberto Miguel Fernandez, member of the PCC Central Committee and first secretary of the party in that province, and by other party, government, and mass organization leaders. A group of pioneers representing the Cienfuegos people welcomed the Ugandan president who will tour places of socioeconomic interest in the province.

Tours Santiago de Cuba

FL151550 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 15 Jan 88

[Text] Yoweri Museveni, president of the Republic of Uganda and of the National Resistance Council, has honored our national hero, Jose Marti, and visited the Celia Sanchez Manduley textile plant in the first part of the visit he is paying to Santiago de Cuba. Accompanied by members of the PCC Politburo Jorge Risquet Valdes and Esteban Lazo Hernandez, first secretary of the PCC provincial committee, Museveni and his entourage placed a floral wreath at the foot of the mausoleum of Jose Marti at the Santa Efigenia Cemetery, which is considered a national monument.

Later, they toured the Celia Sanchez Manduley textile plant where its director, Carlos Gonzalez, described the center, which is capable of producing 80 million square meters of fabric, and noted the efforts its over 7,000 workers are making to fulfill their commitments.

During his stay in Santiago de Cuba, the distinguished guest and the delegation accompanying him visited other places of historic interest such as the 26 de Julio Museum and the Granjita Siboney.

Tours Isle of Youth

FL140347 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 14 Jan 88

[All passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni, president of the Republic of Uganda, today visited the Isle of Youth.

Museveni was greeted with demonstrations of frateral joy at the Nueva Gerona airport. He was accompanied by Comrade Jorge Risquet Valdes, member of the PCC Politburo.

At the 28 January country school, the Ugandan president met with hundreds of students from more than 10 African nations, as well as from Asia and Latin America. He previously visited several of the school's installations and toured the Third Party Congress Pottery Factory, the citrus combine, and the old Modelo Prison.

Hundreds of Pioneers, students, workers, and people from the island, welcomed President Museveni. Armando Manresa, member of the PCC Central Committee and first secretary in the special municipality, greeted the president on behalf of the Isle of Youth residents.

Museveni expressed his satisfaction with the visit and recalled the extensive ties of friendship between Uganda and other African countries. In speaking to the students, who performed dances and sang songs for the visitors, the Ugandan leader said that in his opinion, the principle tasks for the youth of the Third World are to struggle for national liberation, learn a technology, and preserve the national resources of each country.

The Ugandan president answered questions from the national television newscast reporter.

[Reporter] "What is your opinion of Cuba's internationalist aid to other Third World countries?"

[Museveni, in English with consecutive Spanish translation] "It is very useful, especially in the fields of medicine and technology. In some cases Cuban combatants have fought for liberty side by side with combatants from other countries. It's very commendable. This island represents the future of humanity, where all men are living in fraternity, with respect for race, religion, sex, or country. It's all very good."

Bids Castro Farewell

FL152359 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2335 GMT 15 Jan 88

[Text] Our Commander in Chief Fidel Castro Ruz, first secretary of the party and president of the Councils of State and Ministers, this afternoon said farewell to Yoweri Museveni, president of the Republic of Uganda and of the National Resistance Council, at Havana's Jose Marti International Airport.

Museveni was invited by Fidel to visit Cuba as part of the extensive relations between the two peoples.

Dominican Republic

Trade Union Elects Secretary General

FL191646 Santo Domingo Radio Popular in Spanish 0930 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Text] Trade union member Rafael Pimentel was elected secretary general of the Dominican Workers Federation [Central Obrera Dominicana]. He is replacing (Rafael Estevez Almanzar) who was expelled from the union.

It was reported that Pimentel was elected secretary general during a national plenary meeting of leaders. The meeting was attended by 86 delegates.

Another resolution was approved on the selection of a new national directorate, as well as the removal of the previous members of the trade union's Disciplinary Tribunal.

Haiti

Further on Arrest of CED's Louis Dejoie

CED Demands Release

FL212205 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] According to a source close to the Ministry of Information, Louis Dejoie II, leader of PAIN [National Agricultural and Industrial Party], has been arrested for provocations and behavior aimed at inciting to revolt.

The Committee for Democratic Agreement [CED], to which Mr Dejoie belongs, is demanding his immediate release. According to his political allies, Dejoie's arrest foreshadows what Haitians can expect if they accept the result of last Sunday's elections.

In a news release yesterday, the CED said this arrest confirms that the extravagant and vulgar threats proferred against the CED by the president of the unconstitutional CEP [Provisional Electoral Council] must be taken seriously and foreshadows attacks on their basic rights that all Haitians in general can expect, regardless of what political party they belong to, in the unlikely event that they should agree to accept the results of the 17 January elections.

In view of this revolting and unacceptable measure, we the leaders of the four CED parties wish to assure Louis Dejoie of our profound sympathy in the face of this ordeal. We are resolutely in solidarity with him and demand the immediate release of our friend and partner. We hold the CNG [National Government Council] responsible in advance for any physical or moral harm that might come to Dejoie in connection with his arrest. We affirm that no diversionary maneuver will succeed in deviating the attention of the Haitian people and the democratic movement from the fundamental objective. On the contrary, it will only serve to strengthen their determination to struggle for the advent of a more just, more fraternal, more united society in our country.

The CED is holding a news conference at present at the Holiday Inn [Le Plaza Hotel] and Louis Dejoie's arrest is at the center of the discussions.

Details of Arrest

FL211943 Port-au Prince Radio Metropole in French 1145 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Excerpts] The military arrested Mr Louis Dejoie upon arrival at the Port-au-Prince airport yesterday. Mr (Charles Millery), a Dejoie staff member who had gone to meet him at the airport, told the press that the military informed Dejoie they had an arrest warrant but were unable to show him the warrant when he asked to see it. [passage omitted]

Here are Mr (Millery)'s statements after Dejoie was arrested yesterday at Mais Gate Airport.

[Begin recording] [(Millery), speaking Creole, in progress]...there were two pickup trucks following him. They put him in the middle. His face could not be seen. They took him away. We all came here, but they did not bring him here.

[Unidentified reporter] A police vehicle?

[(Millery)] Yes, a police vehicle—Haitian Army, No 10.

[Reporter] Were they in civilian clothing, or...

[(Millery) interrupting] In civilian clothing. There were at least eight men in civilian clothing (?in the back of) the pickup.

[Reporter] Didn't any PAIN people follow the vehicle?

[(Millery)] Yes, we sent a vehicle, with journalists in it, but we do not see it here now.

[Reporter] So you don't know exactly where they have taken him?

[(Millery)] No, we don't know. The vehicle [words indistinct] returned to police headquarters, to the Criminal Investigations Department, but Dejoie wasn't in it.

[Reporter] OK, thank you. [end recording]

According to this same PAIN member, the military asked Dejoie to leave the country on the same plane that brought him to Port-au-Prince, but Dejoie refused.

Rene Theodore, secretary general of the Unified Party of Haitian Communists, the PUCH, has demanded the immediate release of Mr Dejoie. Theodore told a certain press agency: Even if he has expressed ideas we do not share, we still do not approve of his arrest because of his ideas. [passage omitted]

CATH Calls for Mobilization

FL212001 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Text] Here is the reaction of the Autonomous Central of Haitian Workers [CATH] to the arrest of Mr Louis Dejoie II.

CATH says: We are indignant to learn of the arrest of Mr Louis Dejoie II, leader of PAIN, upon his return from abroad. He was arrested yesterday at Mais Gate Airport.

We vigorously protest the arrest, and we demand his immediate and unconditional release.

Louis Dejoie II is not someone who burns down houses, an arsonist, a murderer, someone who steals public monies, or a drug trafficker. He is a patriot and a staunch democrat.

Thus, we ask all patriots in the country's nine geographical departments to mobilize and prepare to undertake a series of open, concrete actions in favor of Louis Dejoie, so they neither keep him in prison nor expel him.

The CATH news release is signed by CATH Executive Secretary (Jean Auguste Mesyeux) and Information Secretary (Joseph Manuci Pierre).

Dejoie at Law Courts

FL211904 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Excerpts] It is 1245 and this is our noon newscast. Our reporters have just informed us that Louis Dejoie II, leader of PAIN, who was arrested at the international airport yesterday, has been taken to the law courts. [Announcer changes to Creole] PAIN leader Louis Dejoie II, who was arrested yesterday at the airport upon his return from a trip to North America and to certain Caribbean countries, was taken to the law courts this morning. We have a reporter on the scene. Williams?

[Williams, in Creole] Thank you, studio. This is Mobile Unit 15 from the law courts, where PAIN President Louis Dejoie II has just arrived. He will be taken before the court. [passage omitted]

Dejoie has just entered the law courts accompanied by military personnel from the Dessalines Barracks. As we talk to you now, Dejoie has entered the office of the examining magistrate. We are following events and will be giving you further details as available.

There are many foreign and Haitian journalists present, awaiting details on Louis Dejoie, who has been accused of inciting to violence or to a popular uprising.

This is Mobile 15 from the law courts. More details later, studio. Thank you.

[Announcer, in French] Thank you, Mobile 15. We remind you that the CED held a news conference at noon today to announce a series of actions that it intends to undertake—among them, a call for a general strike if Louis Dejoie II was not taken before a judge within the period specified by law. [passage omitted]

CED Calls for New Provisional Government

FL212248 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Excerpts] The dominant topic at the CED news conference was the arrest of Mr Louis Dejoie at the airport yesterday. [passage omitted]

Still in connection with the arrest, the CED intends to initiate legal action. [passage omitted]

During this news conference, the CED also called for the the National Government Council to step down and for it to be replaced by a government made up of both military and civilians whose purpose would be to organize democratic elections in Haiti.

That is, roughly, what was discussed during this news conference of which we are going to hear an excerpt.

[Begin Theodore Baker, PAIN representative on the CED, recording] [Passage omitted] We have begun to take and will continue to take, together with the Haitian people, all actions necessary and possible to have that political leader released and to have his constitutional rights restored. We again demand that the 17 January elections be annulled.

We solemnly reiterate here, the CED's desire to set up a new provisional government made up of civilians and members of the Armed Forces whose only function will be to organize real elections—elections that are free, honest and independent of the central government and of its local branches—elections based on the Constitution and which can, (?with the help of the parties) making up the democratic agreement get the entirety of the Haitian people to participate in the electoral process.

The Haitian people have a right to real elections. They have shown, through their maturity and courage, that they are ready for democracy. Thus, (?contrary to certain other sectors), we are ready to fight by the side of the Haitian people so they can obtain that which they desire with all its force and which alone can lead to the change [words indistinct]—to a new society, one that is more just, fairer, more united, based on the law and on development. [end recording]

That was Mr Theodore Baker, representing the leader of the PAIN on the CED, which held a news conference this morning.

Eugene, Ronceray Denounce Elections

FL212143 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Text] Two presidential candidates, attorney C egoire Eugene of the Haitian Social Christian Party and Mr Hubert de Ronceray of the MDN [Mobilization for National Development], have issued a joint communique denouncing the elections. They say the elections were rigged by certain members of the Armed Forces in favor of Mr Leslie Manigat of the RDNP [Assembly of Progressive National Democrats].

Eugene and Ronceray accuse Manigat, who according to the partial returns is leading in the elections, of benefiting from a grotesque scenario mounted in his favor.

According to the two men, certain military commanders ordered their subordinates to have people vote for Manigat. They claim that the ballot boxes were confiscated at several polling stations by members of the Armed Forces before they were even opened or the ballots counted and that the official records of proceedings were drawn up in a completely whimsical manner, without even bothering to see what the ballot boxes contained.

Finally, the two candidates affirm their desire to defend the acquisitions of 7 February 1986 to avoid a new political mishap for Haiti and to prevent a return to any kind of dictatorship.

'Peaceful, Unarmed' Demonstrations Announced

FL211919 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Excerpt] The MDN has sent a letter to General Carl Nicolas, [acting] commander in chief of the Haitian Armed Forces. We received a copy of the letter.

The letter says that at the request of the population and of youth groups from the nine geographical departments of Haiti, the MDN general secretariat has decided to support peaceful, unarmed, demonstrations in Port-au-Prince and in all the towns and communal sections of the Republic within the next 72 hours, to say no to the grotesque scenario rigged in favor of Mr Leslie Francois Manigat's candidacy and to ensure respect for the MDN's victory in the 17 January 1988 elections.

The letter continues: In conformity with Articles 31 and 31 [as heard], Paragraph 2, of the Constitution, which guarantee freedom of assembly without weapons for political purposes, the leader of the MDN is pleased to inform the police forces that a series of meetings will be held in public squares. It invites the police to take the necessary security measures. [passage omitted]

Jamaica

Seaga Calls for Louis Dejoie's Release

FL221533 Bridgetown CANA in English 1508 GMT 22 Jan 88

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Jan 22, CANA—Jamaica's Prime Minister, Edward Seaga has called for the early release for Haitian opposition politican, Louis Dejoie, who was arrested Wednesday after a trip abroad.

And the GLEANER newspaper here reported Friday that a Haitian group in Miami, Florida, had cabled Seaga urging that he use his leverage with the Haitian junta on Dejoie's behalf.

While the requirements of Haitian law must be respected, and while we conform to the principle of non-intervention in the domestic affairs of other states, we look forward to Mr Dejoie's early release which we are sure will contribute to an improvement of the international political perception of Haiti, Seaga said in a statement Thursday night.

It was Seaga's first public statement on events in Haiti since last Sunday's elections there, which opposition leaders and diplomats say was marked by a very low voter turn-out.

Jamaica has been at odds with its other English-speaking Caribbean partners on the election, with Kingston alone saying it was willing to recognise the government that emerged. However, Seaga who sent his education minister and Haiti expert, Neville Gallimore to observe the poll, had said the level of support he gave the new administration would depend on the conduct of the election, including the response of the Haitian voter.

There has been no public indication of what Gallimore reported.

Seaga was the leader of a now fractured initiative among five Caribbean prime ministers to influence events and to sponsor attempts to generate international aid for the country.

Dejoie was a leading candidate in the elections of November 29, aborted when gunmen linked to the former Duvalier dictatorship and soldiers shot up voters. He is among the four top opposition figures who boycotted last Sundays junta-organised election and was abroad denouncing the poll as a sham. He was arrested at the Port-au-Prince airport for statements allegedly inciting riots.

The United States, the crucial broker in Haitian affairs, and other countries have condemned the arrest.

According to Friday's GLEANER story, a group in Miami called Haitian Community Associaiton of Dade Country sent Seaga a cable calling for him to urge the leading members of the military-led junta to free Dejoie.

You no doubt have leverage with General Namphy and Regala, the message said. We ask, in the name of democracy, that you urge them release Louis Dejoie.

Belize

'Hundreds' of PNP Backers Protest 'Abuses'

FL211836 Bridgetown CANA in English 1531 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Text] Belize City, Belize, Jan 21, CANA—Hundreds of supporters of Belize's main opposition People's United Party (PUP) converged here on Wednesday for a large demonstration against the Esquivel government, accused of widespread abuses by the former ruling party.

The demonstration through the main street of Belize City was led by PUP leader and former Prime Minister George Price, leader of the parliamentary opposition Florencio Marin, and other top party officials.

Former foreign minister in the Price government, Senator Vernon Courtenay, said the demonstration was to challenge the government for what he said was its declaration of war on the PUP following a fire that destroyed the home of Deputy Prime Minister Curl Thompson.

Government blamed the PUP for the fire, but the opposition denied the charge.

Three persons have been charged in connection with the blaze, including former Army Major Thomas Greenwood, said to be a PUP member. The PUP said Greenwood is Belize's first political prisoner.

Police intercepted bus loads of supporters coming into Belize City for the demonstration, stopping some buses and claiming their licenses only allowed them to make regular runs for fare paying passengers.

Placards read Political Control of Police Is Dictatorship, Preserve Freedom of Religion and Freedom of Press, and Stop UDP [United Democr. tic Party] Oppression and Victimisation.

El Salvador

Acevedo on 'Meddling' in Peace Process

PA210451 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1730 GMT 20 Jan 88

[Text] Salvadoran Foreign Minister Ricardo Acevedo Peralta has stated that many countries are meddling in the Central American peace process. When asked how the aid that President Ronald Reagan gives the contras affects the Central American peace process, Acevedo replied:

[Begin recording] We, the Central American foreign ministers and people, have our own level of autonomy. We make decisions such as those we valiantly made in Costa Rica. We have decided to continue with the peace effort, and we have revived the willingness of the Central American presidents to continue to seek regional peace and democratization. This is what we have presented to the world. If the United States is trying to adopt a particular foreign policy on Central America, that is something we cannot directly comment on, because we have no jurisdiction over it. We created an institutional framework or system contained in a document that states we have decided to continue with a political process designed to reach agreements and dialogue among the five countries. This is the best we can do.

If this creates reaction from this or that foreign country, that is strictly that country's business. [end recording]

'Rebels' Destroy 5 Chalatenango Public Offices

PY210105 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2351 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Excerpt] San Salvador, 21 Jan (EFE)— Civilian and military sources today reported that Salvadoran guerrillas destroyed five public offices in Chalatenango Department in the past 12 hours.

Today at 0030 (0600 GMT) [as received], the FMLN simultaneously attacked the towns of Comalapa, San Francisco Morazan, and Dulce Nombre de Maria, all of which are in Chalatenango Department.

According to the Army, the rebels used explosives to destroy a telecommunications office and a municipal office in Comalpa, 102 km north of San Salvador.

In Dulce Nombre de Maria, 70 km from the capital, the local citizenry reported that guerrillas destroyed the courthouse, the telephone office, and the city hall.

Meanwhile, inhabitants of San Francisco Morazan, 75 km north of this capital, told the media that last night the rebels entered their town in an attempt to destroy the local public offices. They were unable to do so because they clashed with local government forces. No casualties resulted from the incident. [passage omitted]

Nicaragua

Reportage on San Jose Peace Talks, Mediation

Tinoco Previews Upcoming Talks

PA211443 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1208 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Victor Hugo Tinoco by unidentified reporters in San Jose; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Tinoco] As I said before, we are doing our part. That is why I came to San Jose. We are prepared to meet tomorrow with the counterrevolutionary delegation. Hopefully, that delegation will be a high-level one, and it will not be composed of people with no decisionmaking

powers, as happened in [words indistinct]. People such as Fernando [surname indistinct] do not really decide counterrevolutionary policies. We hope the delegation will be at the highest level.

We are also expecting that countries such as Honduras will also fulfill their commitments in an immediate and honest manner. We hope they will honor their word and take immediate steps to dismantle the camps and bases used to provide operational support to the counterrevolution. At any rate, we want the use of Honduras territory for this purpose to end. Therefore, we are simply implementing in a clear and open manner the commitments made by Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega.

[Reporter] Will the Nicaraguan Government have any (?influence on) the contra delegation, regardless of the delegation's composition?

[Tinoco] It does not matter who the contras appoint; that is their problem. Similarly, they cannot decide who will represent Nicaragua. The Nicaraguan delegation is composed of four persons: one German, one U.S. citizen, and two Nicaraguans. We do not have to decide who the contras will send. That is their problem. We do hope they send a top-level delegation so as to advance a cease-fire being reached.

[Reporter] Mr Tinoco, can you please sum up Nicaragua's proposal?

[Tinoco] Nicaragua has made an 11-point proposal. The Nicaraguan Government introduced the proposals before the first [words indistinct]. We are basically proposing the establishment of specific zones, approximately (?10,000) square kilometers, where the counterrevolutionary forces can concentrate. The EPS forces will withdraw from that area to ensure that the cease-fire is effective and that no problems arise.

Our proposal also includes the possibility of providing some sort of humanitarian aid to the counterrevolutionary forces—food and clothing—through international organizations such as the Red Cross or any other international agency.

[Reporter] Does the Nicaraguan Government or the delegation it is sending expect the meeting to be positive or fruitful?

[Tinoco] We are going to determine here how serious the Reagan administration really is. We are going to determine how willing the Reagan administration is to reach a cease-fire, because that will be reflected in the contras' attitude. If the contras adopt an illogical stand or demand a political dialogue—knowing that this was expressly excluded by the five Central American presidents, not just Nicaragua's president—they will be displaying a lack of interest in reaching a cease-fire. We hope the Reagan administration acts in earnest and tells its representatives, the mercenary forces, to [words indistinct] in these talks to reach a cease-fire.

[Reporter] Mr Tinoco, it has been said that at the last minute, the counterrevolution is proposing to include the local opposition political parties in the talks. How is this related to the talks?

[Tinoco] Apparently, the proposal to integrate members of the Ramiro Sacasa Guerrero Democratic Coordinating Board [CDN] [as heard] was part of the original CIA plan known as the Oliverio Plan. The plan was to try to establish a political front for the counterrevolution and the CIA. As the CDN political leaders stated upon their return to Managua, the CDN disavowed any plan or any alliance with the counterrevolution. Therefore, it is supposed that the original CIA plan is no longer valid.

[Reporter] What has been set up between the Nicaraguan Government and the coordinator?

[Tinoco] Cardinal Obando y Bravo is planning to meet tomorrow with the U.S. representatives, that is, the mercenaries and counterrevolutionaries. The truth is that it is possible—and I am thinking ahead—that after Cardinal Obando y Bravo meets with the contras, the meeting between the two sides can take place. Cardinal Obando y Bravo will participate as a mediator. That is important, because the cardinal is leaving for Rome. He will spend almost all of next week carrying out special activities as a church leader. Therefore, we must take advantage of this moment in order to hold the first meeting.

[Reporter] What major contribution does the presence of Nicaraguans [as heard] in these talks make for reaching a cease-fire?

[Tinoco] This constitutes the new steps that Nicaragua has taken. It is a new attempt to try to keep the peace efforts continuing strongly and to try to see if a negotiated political solution is possible. We hope we can negotiate and persuade the mercenary forces to rejoin Nicaraguan political life. Therefore, this is what the Nicaraguan Government is committed to in order to make progress.

[Reporter] Will the Nicaraguan delegation you head participate in the talks?

[Tinoco] Our delegation is made up of four persons. It includes Hans Juergen Wischnewski, Paul Riechler, Victor Hugo Tinoco, and Comrade Ricardo Wheelock. These four persons are representing Nicaragua in the talks with the counterrevolutionaries.

RN, Government Sides Named

PA211613 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1520 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Text] San Jose, 21 Jan (DPA)—Leaders of the "Nicaraguan Resistance" [RN] (contras) and a Nicaraguan Government delegation are expected to meet this afternoon.

The RN leaders will meet with Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo today for 3 hours starting at 1100 at a Catholic school on the outskirts of San Jose. The Nicaraguan Government delegation, which is headed by Deputy Foreign Minister Victor Hugo Tinoco, will meet with Cardinal Obando y Bravo following his meeting with the anti-Sandinists.

Tinoco said: "We are willing to talk with them (the contras) in the presence of Msgr Obando y Bravo if the cardinal so decides." The following are the members of the Nicaraguan Government delegation: Deputy Foreign Minister Victor Hugo Tinoco, Government Security Adviser Ricardo Wheelock, Hans Juergen Wischnewski of the FRG, and Paul Riechler of the United States. The RN is represented by: Adolfo Calero, Alfonso Robelo, Alfredo Cesar, Pedro Joaquin Chamorro, Aristides Sanchez, and Azucena Ferrey. Calero had been banned from entering the country, but the Costa Rican president lifted the prohibition so the meeting could take place.

Contras To Offer New Proposal

PA211606 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 1448 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Report by Alister Doyle]

[Text] San Jose, 21 Jan (REUTER)—The Nicaraguan rebel leaders have said they will today ask Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo, the mediator from the church, to present their new truce proposals to the Sandinist government prior to the first direct talks between the two groups. Those talks will begin here next week.

The six leaders of the Nicaraguan rebels, who met in San Jose to speak with the church official, stated that the proposal will be similar to the one presented in December. The Sandinists rejected this plan, calling it too political.

"We will present a new proposal with goodwill, patriotism, and the honest intention of achieving peace with liberty," one of the leaders, Adolfo Calero, told the press when he arrived at San Jose airport last night from Miami. He provided no details.

Calero added that today's meeting will be the first between the contra leadership and Obando y Bravo. The cardinal was the mediator for two indirect talks seeking a cease-fire that were held last month in the Dominican Republic. Those talks were unsuccessful.

"We hope...to present a proposal to the Sandinist government," Calero said. Obando y Bravo is slated to arrive from Managua early today to meet with the opposition leaders and to discuss the cease-fire. However, the Sandinists said they are only willing to analyze technical aspects of the cease-fire with the contras.

In order to allow today's talks, Costa Rican President Oscar Arias lifted a ban imposed last week on visits by the rebels until they renounce the use of violence. Calero was also banned from entry 3 years ago for organizing the contra war in Costa Rica.

During the summit of Central American presidents held last Saturday [16 January] in San Jose, Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega promised to initiate broad political reforms. However, the rebels say the measures are a trick to make the U.S. Congress reduce aid when it votes early February on renewing support.

Calero said that Congress will see Ortega is not sincere, and that the members will then vote for new financial assistance.

Pedro Joaquin Chamorro, another of the six rebel leaders, stated upon his arrival from Miami: "We are going to insist on a political dialogue, because the roots of the armed struggle in Nicaragua are political."

However, he added that a political dialogue is not a prerequisite for the truce talks. The rebel proposal presented in December, which was rejected by the Sandinists, requested immediate democratic reforms to accompany the truce.

Calero said that the rebels—estimated by diplomatic sources to be 12,000 fighters strong—were an instrument for halting the dissemination of leftist ideology in Nicaragua. This dissemination began when the Sandinists took power in 1979 following the ouster of former dictator Anastasio Somoza.

"We have erected boundaries on the revolution, which claimed to have no boundaries in 1989," [date as received] he concluded.

RN Refuses To Meet Tinoco

PA212003 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1902 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Report by Margarita Morales]

[Text] Good morning. I have a report for Radio Impacto. A few minutes ago, a meeting began between members of the RN, and Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo at the Don Bosco School.

When questioned by the news media, Obando stated: We will be sounding out positions. He said the problem is not an easy one, but he hopes there will be goodwill.

Obando then commented that the arrest of the Nicaraguan Democratic Coordinating Board leaders does not contribute to peace. He also noted that he hopes the talks do not take long, because between 50 and 60 young men are killed each day in Nicaragua.

When questioned about the aid that President Reagan is requesting for the contras, Obando said that if Nicaragua takes the path of democracy, then all aid should be frozen. Obando likewise commented that he hopes for a general amnesty without restrictions or conditions.

The members of the RN, meanwhile, stated they are unwilling to meet with Victor Hugo Tinoco or with Ricardo Wheelock because they had already reached an agreement with Cardinal Obando to hold the first meeting on a cease-fire on 28 January.

Dr Aristides Sanchez, member of the RN Directorate, emphasized that if the Sandinists want to negotiate a cease-fire, Daniel Ortega and his brother should already be in San Jose. Dr Sanchez likewise explained that the RN Directorate and not the cease-fire commission is meeting at the Don Bosco School today.

Adolfo Calero, Azucena Ferrey, Aristides Sanchez, and Pedro Joaquin Chamorro, the four members of the RN, arrived in our country last night to join Alfonso Robelo and Alfredo Cesar, who were already in Costa Rica.

As for the proposal the RN gave to Cardinal Obando so that he could in turn present it to President Daniel Ortega, Adolfo Calero told Radio Impacto the following:

[Begin recording] We will give Cardinal Obando our proposal tomorrow. Cardinal Obando will be the first to learn of the proposal. The object of this proposal is the achievement of peace in Nicaragua and we hope the Sandinist regime accepts it. [end recording]

Calero also added that the proposal will prove whether the Sandinists are truly interested in complying with the agreements recently approved in San Jose, Costa Rica. He said that the RN wants peace and that if they are using weapons, it is because the Sandinists have left them no other choice.

Throughout the afternoon, Radio Impacto will keep you posted on this important meeting between Cardinal Obando and the RN Directorate. This is the start of the direct talks that will be held in the future between Daniel Ortega [as heard] and the RN, as stipulated in the agreements signed in San Jose during the last meeting of presidents. Daniel Ortega had agreed at that meeting to hold direct talks with the counterrevolution.

RN Talks With Cardinal Noted

PY212230 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2207 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Text] San Jose, 21 Jan (EFE)—The Nicaraguan Resistance today rejected a proposal by the government of Daniel Ortega to today begin a "face-to-face" dialogue between the two parties.

Following a 2-hour meeting of the Resistance leaders with Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo, Nicaraguan opposition spokesman Azucena Ferrey announced that the first dialogue will be held on the date previously established, that is, 28 January.

Costa Rican President Oscar Arias—who advocates the immediate start of a direct dialogue—in the face of the Sandinist proposal's rejection then suggested that at least 2 days be set for the meeting (the 28th and the 29th), to ensure that there is enough time to reach a positive agreement. Arias' suggestion was accepted.

The opponents of the Managua government described the unexpected arrival of a high-level Sandinist delegation, which is led by Deputy Foreign Minister Victor Hugo Tinoco, as a "public relations operation" for foreign consumption.

Pedro J. Chamorro, a member of the Resistance leadership, said that by 28 January "we will have new, specific proposals" for negotiations on peace and democratization.

All members of the Nicaraguan Resistance leadership attended the meeting with Obando y Bravo. They are: Chamorro, Ferrey, Alfredo Cesar, Alfonso Robelo, Adolfo Calero, and Aristides Sanchez.

Cardinal Obando is returning to Managua this afternoon. Later, he will travel to Italy to attend the festivities marking the centennial of the death of St John Bosco.

Truce Tied to Democratization

PY220015 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 2352 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Text] San Jose, 21 Jan (AFP)—The Nicaraguan contra leaders today agreed to negotiate a cease-fire here next week, but they tied the implementation of this cease-fire to complete democratization in Nicaragua, sources of the Nicaraguan Resistance (RN) have stated.

The announcement was made following a meeting held by RN leaders with Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo, who has mediated in the Nicaraguan conflict.

After unsuccessfully trying to meet with the contra leaders, a Sandinist Government delegation announced a proposal to have a special international commission oversee a cease-fire and the integration of the contras into Nicaraguan political life.

RN, FSLN To Meet 28 Jan

PY212138 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2130 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Text] San Jose, Costa Rica, 21 Jan (TELAM-DPA)—Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo, who is acting as a mediator, today reported that the greatly hoped for "face-to-face meeting" between members of the anti-Sandinist resistance ("contras") and the Nicaraguan Goverment has been set for 28 January in this capital.

"The meeting will be held on the 28th," the cardinal said today before returning to Managua.

Tinoco on Contra Rights Panel

PY220232 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0128 GMT 22 Jan 88

[Text] San Jose, 21 Jan (EFE)—The Nicaraguan Government today proposed the creation of an international commission to guarantee the rights of opposition members who lay down their arms and rejoin national political life, Nicaraguan Deputy Foreign Minister Victor Hugo Tinoco noted.

The Nicaraguan diplomat also asserted: "After an agreement on a cease-fire is reached and the contras have settled in areas mutually agreed on, they may keep their weapons and ammunition" for a set period of time.

Tinoco, who justified this measure as a way of "improving the chances of reaching a cease-fire agreement with the contras," made these comments in the Costa Rican capital.

The goal of these measures is to make peace accords easier to attain, and to incorporate the contras into the national political life "with full guarantees" that will enable them to enjoy "all political and civil freedoms."

Tinoco pointed out that these freedoms "include the right to create political parties or register with existing ones, and to run for office in fair and free national and municipal elections."

He also said that the Nicaraguan Government proposed the creation of a special international commission to guarantee that "all these rights can be enjoyed by contras who choose to gain power through political and not military means."

Tinoco made these comments at a news conference at the Nicaraguan Embassy after being told that an attempt for a direct dialogue between the Nicaraguan Government and the contras had failed. This dialogue was held behind closed doors in San Jose with the official mediation of Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo. [sentence as received]

The commission proposed by Managua would include one representative from the United Nations, the OAS, the Contadora Group, the Contadora Support Group, the Christian Democratic International, the Liberal International, the Socialist International, and the U.S. Republican and Democratic Parties.

Tinoco added that this initiative "is not just a balloon, because it is based on the Esquipulas II accords" concerning the security of combatants who renounce the use of force to lead normal lives.

Expanding his explanation of the new measures, Victor Hugo Tinoco pointed out that after a cessation of hostilities is achieved, the government of Daniel Ortega "will not place obstacles in the paths of other governments, including the United States," that wish to give humanitarian aid to the contras.

To the Nicaraguan Government, humanitarian aid means food, clothing, tents, and medicine for the rebels that stop fighting. This aid will be channeled through the International Red Cross or a similar organization.

After these announcements, the official Nicaraguan mission bade farewell to Costa Rican President Oscar Arias, who had unsuccessfully promoted a "face-to-face" dialogue between the opposing parties. This is something that Cardinal Obando y Bravo had also attempted.

The head of the Nicaraguan church returned to Managua this afternoon. The government delegates, meanwhile, will depart at a time that has not been revealed "for reasons of security."

Tinoco Meets With Arias

PA220250 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 0110 GMT 22 Jan 88

[Excerpts] Today the Nicaraguan Government, through Deputy Foreign Minister Victor Hugo Tinoco, announced two new proposals aimed at, according to the Nicaraguan Government, reaching a cease-fire agreement with the contras and incorporating the rebels into national political life. [passage omitted]

[Costa Rican] President Oscar Arias met for more than 1 hour with Tinoco, who led the Sandinist delegation that came to Costa Rica to try to meet with the RN. Tinoco said they discussed all of the issues involving efforts to arrange a cease-fire. He also noted that he told Arias of the Nicaraguan Government's willingness to meet today with the rebel leaders, but that the latter refused to do so. Tinoco reiterated that the Nicaraguan delegation will return on 28 January to begin the talks, because the Nicaraguan Government is willing to fulfill the commitments it agreed to at the presidential summit.

Tinoco stated that the conditions established by the RN leaders, such as simultaneous democratization, demonstrate a lack of willingness. The resistance is demanding

a simultaneous cease-fire, democratization, suspension of obligatory military service, freedom of the press, and the total elimination of the military siege and food cards. Tinoco said this is not a display of political willingness, because in Santo Domingo they wanted a direct dialogue, and then they wanted a Nicaraguan [to attend the talks]. Now they are establishing new conditions, which demonstrates a lack of seriousness.

Cardinal To Return to San Jose

PA221730 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1658 GMT 22 Jan 88

[Text] Managua, 22 Jan (DPA)—Nicaraguan Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo will urgently leave within the next few hours for San Jose, Costa Rica to step up negotiations for a cease-fire between the contras and the Sandinist government, it was learned this morning in Managua.

Obando y Bravo returned to Managua last night from Costa Rica after meeting with the leaders of the anti-Sandinist rebellion.

He said [words indistinct] on the resumption of negotiations for 28 January in San Jose, but his sudden trip may mean the talks will be stepped up.

Paper Questions Local Opposition Stance

PA181548 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 14 Jan 88 p 3

[Editorial]

[Text] It has not surprised anyone that the survivors of Somozism became involved with the counterrevolution. However, it is surprising that at the last minute, those who claim to hold patriotic positions also want to navigate in those same waters! This change comes from a weakening of a potential that is giving way to an aggressive machinery.

It is understandable that those who have an independent, political project do not agree with the FSLN project. It is also logical that all those who are part of the current political opposition sometimes share general views.

Nor is it surprising that those who form the current opposition, which is inspired abroad, are the same ones who once opposed Somozism and struggled until the last minute to install a form of Somozism without Somoza, to keep their class hegemony in power.

However, when Arturo Cruz—despite having been a contra elite leader—suddenly appears to admit Washington's intervention in the CDN and publicly regrets having participated in the plans to boycott the presidential elections, we cannot help but analyze the attitudes of some political parties and groups that have joined in a shameful flirtation with the most recalcitrant right-wing sector.

It is very difficult to believe the whole opposition sector holds the same position as the CDN, COSEP [Higher Council of Private Enterprise], and the Yankee government. These sectors favor the release of the former Somozist Guards, who killed Nicaraguan people; the return of the goods confiscated from the Somozist regime; and a dialogue with the mercenary forces. In addition, these groups are willing to give up their own traditions and principles to obediently surrender to the orders of the White House.

That abyss, which Reagan and the Nicaraguan recalcitrant right want to throw the opposition sector into, is an authentic attack on national interests.

Will the local opposition let itself be drawn toward that type of political suicide? Will the opposition parties represented in the National Assembly deny their former efforts and institutional contributions, which have built the new Nicaragua with everyone's support? Will they exchange their seats in the national dialogue for an opportunity to become mercenary followers? That is difficult to believe, right?

Ministry Reports Recent Contra Operations

PA161700 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 14 Jan 88

[Defense Ministry communique dated 13 January 1988]

[Text] 1. Yesterday, 1,332 pounds of C-4 explosives, divided into 36 packages of 25 bars each, that belonged the counterrevolutionaries were seized. This huge amount of explosives was to be used for terrorist actions against the nation's economy, and to blow up bridges, light posts, and electric power lines. The explosives were seized in Chontales Department.

2. Today our forces seized counterrevolutionary supplies in El Garrobo, located east of Guapi, in the autonomous South Atlantic region. The troops seized 10,000 rounds of AK ammunition, 1,000 rounds of FAL ammunition, 18 grenades for M-79 launchers, 1 AK (MS) rifle, 1 AK (L) rifle, 1 FAL rifle, 3 FAL magazines, 6 harnesses, 2 knapsacks, and 2 belts.

On 11 January there was fighting at a place known as Santa Fe, northwest of San Rafael del Norte, Jinotega Department. Two mercenaries were killed and one was captured. That same day there was fighting at the (Aconga) River, north of Salto Grande, in the autonomous South Atlantic region. Two mercenaries were killed and one AK rifle and one RPG-7 launcher were captured.

3. On 12 January there was fighting at a place known as La Camaleona, southeast of San Jose de Bocay, Jinotega Department. Four counterrevolutionaries were killed. On 11 January mercenary groups attacked the Jesus Maria farm, located north of San Miguelito, Rio San Juan Department, and stole 228 head of cattle. On 12 January they ambushed a civilian truck on La Avispa Hill, northeast of Santo Domingo, Chontales Department. Four civilians were wounded. On the same day they harassed (Guaspan), in the autonomous North Atlantic region, with undetermined results.

President Ortega To Visit Spain 26 Jan

PA211450 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Text] A communique issued last night announced that President Daniel Ortega will leave for Spain on 26 January for an official visit. He will meet with Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez for broad discussions of the Central American situation, particularly the latest contributions of the Sandinist people's revolution to guarantee the progress of the Esquipulas II accords.

In Communique No 2, the Information and Press Directorate of the Presidency of the Republic reported that Daniel Ortega Saavedra, president of the Republic and Commander of the Revolution, will conduct an official working visit to Spain as of 26 January. During his visit, President Ortega will meet with King Juan Carlos I and Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez. He will discuss with them the recent meeting of Central American presidents held in San Jose, Costa Rica; the efforts for peace our government has made; and the development of bilateral ties between Spain and Nicaragua.

Constitution for C.A. Parliament Approved

PA161344 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 15 Jan 88

[Text] The National Assembly today approved the constitution for the Central American parliament, with 84 votes in favor and 2 against it. The Assembly will meet again Wednesday to discuss the national budget.

Briefs

1987 Spending Figures

In 1987, the nation's expenditures rose to 1.0835 trillion cordobas, while total revenues during this period were 716.4 billion cordobas. Spending for defense, health, and education accounted for 68.3 percent of the budget's total expenditures. [Summary] *[Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 11 Jan 88 p 3 PA]*

Price of Dollar Rises

Today the price of the dollar rose to 21,000 cordobas at the Foreign Exchange House. This is the first increase in the price of the dollar in 1988. [Summary] *[Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 12 Jan 88 pp 1, 12 PA]*

Panama

Civic Crusade Gives Noriega 28 Jan 'Deadline'

PA221457 Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish 22 Jan 88 p 3

[Excerpt] The national Civic Crusade and its 100 member organizations have approved a deadline, which expires on 28 January, demanding that General Manuel Antonio Noriega resign as commander in chief of the Panama Defense Force or submit to an impartial investigation by independent lawyers of the following: the terrible murder of Dr Hugo Spadafora, drug trafficking, the 1984 electoral fraud, political and administrative corruption, and other crimes against the state.

The Civic Crusade leaders feel the country has reached a point where it can no longer tolerate the tremendous tension. Any additional delay past 28 January might therefore entail irreversible damage to our social and economic structures, and a definite deterioration of the country's institutional life. [passage omitted]

Esquivel on Political Situation, Elections

PA200120 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2334 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Interview with Vice President Roderick Esquivel by unidentified reporter; date and place not given]

[Text] [Esquivel] I am quite satisfied that wisdom has been exercised in the reopening of the communications media, which never should have been closed. Freedom of the press is a matter of ethics and morals. And, regardless of whether or not the media are opened, it does not necessarily mean there is freedom of expression. However, to provide the opportunity for the people to be informed and to give the communications media the opportunity to report the truth is a big step toward democracy. I am quite pleased this has happened.

[Reporter] What is your view of the country's political situation and of the elections in 1989?

[Esquivel] I have many doubts about such elections, because we are in a definite period of political instability concerning what will happen in Panama between now and 1989. There is no sense in promising to hold elections in 1989 if conditions are not met for the people to see that the elections make sense. I repeat, the Panamanian people went to the polls in 1984. We do not need hope now; we need guarantees. And if those guarantees are given, then we can resolve our political, social, and economic problems.

[Reporter] How do you see the current political situation?

[Esquivel] As confused as the rest of the Panamanian people see it.

Foresees 'Violent Turmoil'

PM220951 Barcelona LA VANGUARDIA in Spanish 13 Jan 88 p 8

[Joaquim Ibarz dispatch: "Noriega Is in a Critical Situation But Will Not Flee"]

[Text] Panama City—"General Noriega is in a very difficult and critical situation, and I do not believe that he will do anything to improve it; quite the contrary, since his position and image are deteriorating. But he is not a man who is going to flee. I know him well enough to know that he will not abandon his post through a sensational escape. Fleeing is not in keeping with his personality," asserted Panamanian Vice President Roderick Esquivel, who is maintaining a stance of confrontation with the government and with the Defense Forces, and who is in a kind of internal exile.

Esquivel, whose official vice presidential offices were looted last November—"a group of military personnel sent by the president of the Republic burst into my office, frightened the clerks, and stole all my personal effects, which they have not returned to me"—received me at a medical center where he works as a gynecologist, since he has no official office.

My vice presidential office is this center or the Santa Ana Park when I cannot be here. Even if they so wished, they could not remove me from office without gravely violating the Constitution, and I am going to carry out my mandate. I have withstood pressures to resign."

Over the past few days rumors about possible confrontations between President Delvalle and Gen Noriega have increased because of the statements which the president made to a U.S. newspaper, in which he asserted that he is seeking an honorable way out for the Defense Forces chief. Delvalle went to New York a week ago, supposedly in order to receive medical treatment, but there is talk that he could have difficulties on his return, as happened to Nicolas Ardito Barletta, who was dismissed from the Presidency in September 1985, following a visit to the United States.

"If Noriega forces Delvalle's resignation, I would automatically become president of the Republic, and I announce right now that I intend to take office. Whether or not I will be able to carry out my duties is another matter. Specifically, I do not believe that Delvalle will have any difficulties on his return; his greatest difficulty is being part of a dictatorship." Esquivel asserted that although Panama looks like a democracy, in fact there is a dictatorship.

"The president is not head of the Armed Forces, as the Constitution says, nor has he had freedom to choose his cabinet. These things are very clear and obvious. There are many other things concerning the spirit of the Constitution which do not work. And this has caused me, as vice president, to be in opposition. Noriega has made grave mistakes. By halting the democratic transition and reverting to dictatorial methods he is marked as the cause of considerable protests. He has made himself the focus of the people's protests, and through him the increasing antipathy has turned against the Defense Forces, which were once loved by a majority of the population, especially by the most humble people, thanks to the works and style of General Torrijos, who was less repressive and had greater social sensitivity."

Esquivel stressed that Noriega's term has been characterized by grave domestic and foreign accusations which have not been investigated. "These Defense Forces are saddled with the political murder of Hugo Espadafora. Preventing the murder accusation from being investigated has caused the Defense Forces to be fingered as the culprits. All this has led to explosive protests which are suppressed." However, Dr Esquivel said that it is a mistake to claim that all Panama's problems stem from Noriega.

"Panama is confronted with a dilemma. Either we all discuss a peaceful and democratic solution or we we will have to shoot it out. The population can no longer endure a dictatorship; the people want a real democracy. Panamanians are peaceful people who believe in political coexistence, but those who believe that this immunizes them against a violent reaction are mistaken. In our country there are all the ingredients for violent turmoil. And I repeat that there will be violence unless we lead Panama toward a decent and real democracy." The vice president believes that what happened last weekend following Noriega's unexpected visit to Santo Domingo was more a tragicomedy than a farce.

"It was a tragicomedy because he was shown, first, this people's great joy at the belief that Noriega had left. This was followed by the violent repression by the military and the disappointment. In Panama there is a repressive paranoia on the part of the Army, and a peaceful and festive demonstration like Saturday's could have ended in tragedy."

Esquivel said that his Liberal Party formed part of the government coalition in 1984 because it believed the promises of democratization. "We had hopes that in Panama there would be a democratic transition to a civilian government."

He added that Panama no longer needs hopes and that it has lost them, without guarantees that fair and democratic elections will be held next year. He also noted that the cause of his rift with the government was not Colonel

Diaz Herrera's accusations against Noriega, but rather the lack of an investigation into the grave accusations made by the former chief of staff.

Paper Reiterates Editorial Principles

PA201629 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 20 Jan 88 p 1

[Editorial: "The Conquest of Freedom"]

[Text] Despite the efforts of those who would prefer to see us closed forever, LA PRENSA is again circulating today, almost 6 months after it was arbitrarily closed and its installations illegally occupied.

It has not been easy to get this first edition of 1988 to our readers. The humidity and heat that characterize our climate, together with the total lack of preventive maintenance, have caused considerable damage to our equipment. It will thus be a long time before it can operate normally.

However, neither political obstacles nor technical difficulties will prevent LA PRENSA from maintaining the same editorial principles it has upheld since it was founded. This newspaper was established to report on all those matters that due to their nature or circumstances are considered to be in the public interest, and to serve as a forum for expressing opinions on those matters, whether or not they agree with the newspaper or the views of its editors.

We are and will continue to be a free newspaper, not because the authorities recognize or guarantee that right which is granted in the Constitution, but because freedom is an inherent part of human nature that no man can renounce without becoming one of those human beings who are controlled by instinct's inflexible tyranny.

In Panama, as we all know very well, rights are not exercised with the absolute confidence on which Montesquieu based the essence of freedom. In order to be free as individuals, as citizens, as a professional organization or association, or as a country, we must have the courage to exercise those rights, in spite of intimidation, threats, and reprisals.

Nature has given us the ability to elect and to chose our values. Our spirit determines whether we will use that potential to become forgers of our own destiny. Panama will be free because Panamanians have decided to be free. In that effort, LA PRENSA will continue the task it began more than 7 years ago.

We will still have to overcome many difficulties. However, we are certain that with the efforts and generous solidairty of our readers, advertisers, employees, and shareholders, LA PRENSA—as in the past—will overcome all obstacles in order to contribute decisively to the victory of freedom for all Panamanians.

EL SIGLO Reopens, Resumes Publication

PA201350 [Editorial Report] Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish resumes publication on 19 January after being closed for 175 days by order of the government. In resuming its antigovernment line, the paper carries banner headlines on the front page citing General Ruben Dario Paredes, former commander in chief of the Panama Defense Force, as saying that "Noriega Must Go." The reference is to a 400-word article from Madrid EFE datelined in Washington, D.C., printed on page 15, in which Gen Paredes calls for Noriega to step down "to avoid having what happened in Nicaragua repeated in Panama."

In a 100-word article on pages 1 and 15, the paper states that it is returning "with the same courage, valor, and objectivity," and under the same management, with its directors being the honorable legislators Antonio Arias, Guillermo Cochez, Francisco Artola, Bertilo Mejia, Mayin Correa, Marcos Alarcon, Raul G. Ossa, and Mario J. de Obaldia.

Another article on pages 1 and 15 notes that the price of the tabloid has been increased by 10 cents to 35 cents because of the many debts incurred as a result of the closure, which is described as an "attack by the forces of evil."

The editorial on page 1 refers to the closure as an "unprecedented outrage" while a 175-word "communique" on page 2 issued by the members of the Civic Crusade in exile on 18 January notes that the people will again be able to read and listen to what "the tyranny unsuccessfully tried to hide." The communique warns that "the minutes of the dictatorship are numbered."

In its inside pages, the paper carries the usual international news and crime reports, except for two columns by Alfredo Icaza and Luis Ardines, both of which note the "breaking of the chains" of silence and the return of the paper. Both also note that the chains could be reimposed at any time.

On its center pages, pages 8 and 9, the paper carries the national Civic Crusade's "Proposed Program for a Transition to Democracy.

A chart on page 11 gives the income of 21 people in the Panamanian foreign service, noting that together they cost the nation $143,000 monthly. The back page carries a report in which the vice president calls the minister of government a liar for saying that Vice President Esquivel is earning a government salary.

The paper also carries, on pages 15 and 16, a translation and a copy of the original letter from the U.S. secretary of defense to Hildebrando Nicosia, secretary general of the Authentic Panamenist Party, reaffirming the Reagan administration's belief in the importance of strong ties with the countries in the Americas.

Closing the issue, the back page carries a headline saying that Winston Spadafora, brother of decapitated guerrilla Hugo Spadafora, has challenged General Noriega. The reference is to another EFE article on page 15 reporting that Spadafora has again accused Gen Noriega of being the mastermind behind his brother's murder.

Argentina

Prosecutor on 'Intolerable' U.S. Pressures

PY152133 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1628 GMT 14 Jan 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 14 Jan (TELAM)—Ricardo Molinas, head of the National Prosecutors Office for Administrative Investigations, has reported that the U.S. Embassy is applying serious and intolerable pressure to prevent his office from investigating and adopting preventive measures provided for in the law against the firm D.H.L. International.

During a news conference, Molinas said that this constitutes intolerable interference by a foreign power in Argentina's internal affairs and a lack of respect for our sovereignty. He said that the firm in question is a concessionary-carrier of the National Enterprise for Mail and Telegraph (Encotel).

Molinas emphasized that the heads of the firm have repeatedly maintained that their capital was national, but added that his office in 1987 reported that the capital of the firm belonged to British citizens, and that the firm had been transferred in violation of present laws and the integrity of the national patrimony in July 1982, during the Malvinas war, to avoid the application of laws designed to protect enemy property.

Issue Considered 'Over'

PY212349 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1630 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 21 Jan (NA)— The National Prosecutors Office for Administrative Investigations today confirmed that the U.S. Embassy has approached the Argentine Foreign Ministry "to question steps" taken by this office "in accordance with legal norms and within the strict range of its authority." The office added that it considers the issue raised by the U.S. Embassy over.

Ricardo Molinas, head of the National Prosecutors Office, referred in a recent news conference to a "foreign embassy's intolerable interference in Argentina's internal affairs and its lack of respect for the country's sovereignty."

The office expressed its hope that no similar incident would require its attention in the future.

In a communique, the office stated that the incident started when the U.S. Embassy made public a document stating that it had approached the Argentine Foreign Ministry "to question steps that the office had taken in accordance with legal norms and within the strict range of its authority."

The communique also stated that it has been proved that, through the courier [preceding word in English] system, materials and equipment forbidden by the customs laws are being brougt into the country. The communique pointed out that tires, staples, medicine, machinery, paintings, and films, among other things, cannot be considered mail.

The communique adds that the steps taken regarding the DHL Company refer to remittances made by the company, which claims to be Argentine.

The communique states that if the company were not Argentine, it would not have obtained an Entel [National Telecommunications Enterprise] permit.

The communique adds that the entire situation is thus made clear, and that the office's comments at the news conference are thus confirmed. It concludes by saying that if similar incidents occur, the office will continue to take steps in accordance with its duties.

Continuing Developments in Rico Case Reported

CGT Board Issues Communique

PY161425 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1155 GMT 16 Jan 88

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 16 Jan (NA)—The board of the Argentine General Confederation of Labor [CGT] has declared itself in continuous session in view of the military crisis unleashed by former Lieutenant Colonel Aldo Rico's contempt of court. The CGT board has also reaffirmed its support for democracy in a communique, although some members of that board have individually expressed different views on this situation.

CGT Secretary General Saul Ubaldini has made a personal statement, saying "it is a problem affecting an area that does not concern us, but we also want constitutional order to be maintained." [passage omitted]

Document on Fugitives Issued

PY211053 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 2238 GMT 20 Jan 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 20 Jan (DYN)—A working document prepared at the highest government level, referring to some of those involved in the abortive military rebellion who are still at large, warns that "if government forces fail to arrest them and bring them to trial, their destructive actions will be uncontrolled."

The document, to which DYN had access, states that "the institutions, with their solid position, should not overlook the risk that actions by these individuals or factions could represent to public tranquillity."

The document, six typed pages long, begins by summing up recent events in the political-military sector since the Holy Week crisis.

It stresses the role played by the people in defense of the democratic system on that occasion, and adds that President Raul Alfonsin sought "a solution that will preserve the principles of chain of command and obedience, with no bloodshed caused to civilians or military men."

The document states that "it was a matter of enforcing the law and administering justice with the appropriate tact after the Holy Week events, so decisions would express the country's profound desire rather than the opinion of some groups."

It then explains the official argument that led to the promotion and promulgation of the Due Obedience Law and recalls the message President Alfonsin addressed to the Armed Forces at a dinner on 9 July, a month after the promulgation of the law.

On that occasion, the president stated that "there is clear evidence of the existence of a desperate strategy by those who know they are running out of time to reinstate the period of decline."

After emphasizing the actions taken by the courts to apply that law and after referring to the 6 September election, the document states that "in October the government called upon all political forces to join the great task of promoting a dialogue designed to strengthen the atmosphere of national coexistence" and "to continue to implement the basic reform that is still pending."

In this respect, the document emphasizes that the new Defense Bill, which was already approved by the Chamber of Deputies, was also approved by the multiparty board.

The document adds that "during the 2 months [figure as received] that have elapsed since the Easter events, the Argentine nation has taken major steps toward reconciling the Armed Forces and Argentine society once and for all."

The document notes that "the effective, steady progress made toward achieving these objectives could provoke increasingly desperate reactions from small, isolated sectors which, despite their possible claims, are in fact seeking to prevent the consolidation of progress."

The document adds: "The position taken by former Lieutenant Colonel Aldo Rico and a few other Army officers now clearly appears as a seditious action against the whole of the law-abiding Argentine society." The document says that the group of rebels "can no longer raise pending military or political issues to justify their action" and states that "all problems must be solved within the framework of democracy, with authority but without violence, as advocated by the president during the Easter events."

The document adds that it should be considered that "the Argentine society has learned not to judge an institution based on the isolated action of some of its members."

The document states that "this new political lesson learned by the Argentine people will strongly protect the Armed Forces against the feverish action of some nostalgic, messianic people like the members of Rico's group."

In conclusion, the document states that "those men who have placed themselves outside the law for any reason are a threat to the life and property of the people, and their destructive action will not be controlled until they are arrested and brought to trial."

Peronists Issue Communique

PY211938 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1050 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 21 Jan (NA) — The Justicialist National Council headed by Antonio Cafiero has warned that the military crisis has already surpassed the limits of the military sphere and could become "the first step toward the interruption of the democratic transition process."

The Justicialists said "the government cannot evade its responsibilities regarding the causes and development of the crisis."

The Peronists said the participation "of armed civilians, the display of large economic resources, the intense and widespread psychological campaign, and the public declarations of the main participants in the rebellion" allow us to state that the conflict "was beginning to surpass the limits of an internal military dispute."

The Peronist leaders further said that "the lack of a military policy, the absence of effective leadership, the issuing of multiple and contradictory messages, and the permissive attitude and abdication" of and by the government were "the ingredients that fertilized the ground for the launching of the rebellion." All this was stated in a document the Peronist leadership released yesterday afternoon.

The communique summarizes the debates at the meeting of the Justicialist National Council. The document was edited by a commission comprised of Hernan Patino Mayer, Raul Carignano, Jose Maria Vernet, Jose Manuel de la Sota, Jorge Busti, and Liliana Gurdulich de Correa, among others.

The Justicialists think that "only the democratic system and national sovereignty have emerged victorious from the three episodes," and that "only the elitist messianism

of groups and interests that seek power through the back door of authoritarianism have been defeated." This was a direct reference to former Lieutenant Colonel Aldo Rico's followers.

The document adds: "We excuse the main body of the Armed Forces from criticism because they acted in defense of the constitutional order and neutralized the rebellion that was threatening peace, national unity, and the republican institutions."

The document adds that the government has been urged "since 1983, and especially since the Holy Week incident," to fully exercise the powers that "the people have entrusted to it" to reorganize the Armed Forces, "adapting its doctrine, deployment, and operations to effectively defend national sovereignty" within the framework of the democratic system.

"The government, far from correcting its mistakes, omissions, and concessions, has persisted in deferring to the military institutions themselves the solution of matters that undoubtedly belong to the political sphere," the communique adds.

The Justicialists stress that despite the attitude of the government, their movement has persisted "in its claims and demands and has obtained as a consequence the enactment of the Defense Law, which had the agreement of the party, the government, and other political forces."

Finally, the document says the Justicialist Party has instructed its deputies and senators to propose a joint congressional investigation commission with wide powers "so the Argentine people and the political forces can gather the information necessary for a correct evaluation of the purposes and consequences of the revolt."

The document makes clear that such a commission, as well as the communique, has the sole purpose of "rejecting the rebellion and the participation of civilians in it, regardless of their political affiliations; clarifying the facts; promptly correcting the mistakes we have pointed out; and effectively strengthening political power."

The communique concludes by saying that "these conditions are essential for the nation and the people to be able to rely on an able and professional Armed Forces, capable of operating efficiently, with a doctrine that would allow them to effectively defend the national sovereignty."

The critical document, signed by Antonio Cafiero, Carlos Saul Menen, Jose Maria Vernet, Roberto Garcia, and Carlos Grosso, summarizes a long debate on the crisis—which was called an "institutional subversion"—in the National Justicialist Council on 19 January. Justicialist leaders who participated directly in the incidents, such as Entre Rios Governor Jorge Busti and national Deputy Carlos Carignano, participated in the debates.

Carignano said at the meeting that on Sunday night [17 January] the Ministry of Defense was "totally lost," and added that the Radicals "either don't understand the gravity of the situation or simply don't give a damn about it."

Another issue discussed at the meeting was the alleged "ambiguity" of the statements issued during the crisis by the CGT. Advisor Deolindo Bittel supported the CGT, saying the confederation had stated its criticism of the "ambiguous message" policy of the UCR government.

The council also criticized the various "unofficial mediations" with the leaders of the rebellion carried out by prominent members of the ruling party as well as by "individuals who call themselves Peronists but who have nothing to do with the party," according to a front leader of the Justicialist Party.

Details on Arrests Given

PY211332 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1215 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 21 Jan (TELAM) —The Army General Staff this morning released a communique giving more information on the arrest of officers and noncommissioned officers linked to the uprising headed by former Lieutenant Colonel Aldo Rico.

The text of the communique says: The Army General Staff would like to give further information regarding the military personnel under arrest who are at the disposal of the military court: 15 officers of the 19th Infantry Regiment; 1 officer of the 20th Infantry Regiment; 1 officer of the Logistics Battalion; and 8 officers and 12 noncommissioned officers of the 161st Antiaircraft Defense Artillery Group.

The Army would like to reiterate that in order to establish the appropriate legal framework, the military court has initiated proceedings through the military judges and prosecutors on a case-by-case basis to determine the responsibility of military personnel linked to the recent events.

The communique was signed by Colonel Miguel Chichizola, director of institutional affairs of the Army General Staff.

Units Return to Garrisons

PY212241 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2141 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 21 Jan (TELAM) — In a communique released at 1830 today, the Army General Staff informed the people that military court proceedings resulting from the recent events are continuing as expeditiously as possible.

The text of the communique reads as follows:

The Army General Staff wants to inform the people that the return of Army units to their original garrisons has been completed without any incident.

Military court proceedings resulting from the recent events are continuing as expeditiously as possible.

2 Rico Supporters Surrender

PY212326 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2240 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 21 Jan (NA) — Lieutenant Colonels Enrique Venturino and Jose Valiente—who were at large—this morning voluntarily turned themselves in at the Libertador Building and were remanded to custody at the military prison located in Campo de Mayo, Buenos Aires Province, it has been confirmed by high-level military sources.

The sources told NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS that Lieutenant Colonel Luis Polo is serving a 20-day arrest sentence at the Cordoba garrison for failing to report to his superiors during the recent rebellion.

Lieutenant Colonels Angel Leon and Dario Fernandez Maguer, two followers of former Lieutenant Colonel Aldo Rico, are still at large.

Alfonsin, Cafiero Meet, Release Communique

PY142041 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1635 GMT 14 Jan 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 14 Jan (NA)—President Raul Alfonsin and Buenos Aires Governor Antonio Cafiero today released a joint communique. In the communique, they express support for constitutional change, stating that "direct election of the executive branch" is a key point.

In the communique, which was released at the end of a meeting at Government House, Alfonsin and Cafiero express support for a round of talks among the governors of all the provinces with the goal of establishing a "new federalism" that will promote "a national project."

Alfonsin and Cafiero also expressed support for constitutional change. If this idea is approved by the national Congress, they propose that a public debate on this issue be held with the basic goal of "improving the democratic system."

The meeting lasted from 1100 to 1215. Following the meeting, Jose Ignacio Lopez and Jorge Telerman, spokesmen for Alfonsin and Cafiero, respectively, released the joint communique.

The communique states that it would be appropriate to include the other political parties in any discussion of constitutional change.

Later, Cafiero held a news conference, stating that President Raul Alfonsin told him that "he is determined to take the necessary steps to reassert his authority over the Armed Forces."

Concerning the demands that the CGT [General Confederation of Labor] made through the Buenos Aires governor, Cafiero said Alfonsin told him that the government "cannot make any substantial changes in its economic policy."

The Buenos Aires governor also said that they discussed the 1989 elections and that, in this regard, they agreed that the candidate with the largest number of votes would be declared president by the electoral college.

Cafiero Comments on Meeting

PY151347 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1841 GMT 14 Jan 88

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 14 Jan (TELAM)—President Raul Alfonsin and Justicialist Party President Antonio Cafiero today agreed on the need to implement a constitutional reform capable of improving the democratic system. They also discussed the possibility of an agreement with the provinces to promote a new federal system.

Regarding the military situation, Cafiero said that Alfonsin stated that he continues to wield authority and that he would exercise it whenever necessary.

During their 1-hour and 15-minute meeting at the Government House, Cafiero and Alfonsin stated that it is desirable to carry out the elections for the Constituent Assembly and for the national government in 1989, and that the Constituent Assembly should finish its task before the new administration takes over.

At the meeting's conclusion, Cafiero told journalists that the dialogue with Alfonsin reflects a mature relationship between the opposition and the ruling party, without this implying his party's surrender or merger with any other party. Cafiero said that he had some disagreement with Alfonsin, especially as far as the salary policy is concerned. [passage omitted]

Cafiero told the press that, during the meeting, they discussed viewpoints with regard to the need to appoint a prime minister. He said that Alfonsin advocates the designation of a prime minister, while the Justicialist Party supports the designation of a minister who would coordinate the activities of the executive branch.

Cafiero said that he held an open dialogue with Alfonsin, which reveals the mature relationship prevailing between the ruling party and the opposition. Cafiero added that this dialogue does not have to arouse suspicion in any political sector. On the contrary, it should elicit satisfaction because it reveals an improvement in relations within the democracy.

Cafiero stated that a new stage has begun, because the times when the political leaders kept dialogues secret is gone. He stressed that the meeting he held today and the one that took place in December were clear and frank and that all Argentines are free to examine them. [passage omitted]

Cafiero said that he explained to Alfonsin the position of the Justicialist Party as concerns the economic policy. This position calls for new economic mechanisms, projects, and initiatives.

Concerning the foreign debt, Cafiero said that Alfonsin believes the creditor countries are moving toward a more reasonable position although not as fast as Argentina would like. Cafiero, on the other hand, stated that he favors a new approach to payments, including a moratorium on the interest payments. He added that this is the position of the Justicialist Party, which also advocates changes in the economic policy and the strengthening of the domestic front. [passage omitted]

In response to journalists' questions, Cafiero said that during the meeting he did not propose the elections be moved forward, adding that his party is not worried about that issue.

Brazil

Libyan Delegation Negotiating Tank Purchase

PY211429 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1329 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Text] Rio de Janeiro, 21 Jan (TELAM-ANSA)—A Libyan military mission made up of 12 colonels is in Brazil to purchase heavy "Osorio"-type tanks, and "Leo" and "Piranha" missiles. Payment will be made in oil, and the deal could amount to as much as $2 billion.

This was learned by the press today after the mission met in Brasilia with Army Minister General Leonidas Peres Goncalves and Aeronautics Minister General Octavio Moreira Lima.

Brazil used to sell arms to Libya, but sales were interrupted in 1983 when relations between the two countries were strained because Brazil detained a Libyan airplane loaded with weapons on its way to Central America.

The Libyan Army already has some light Brazilian tanks (such as the "Cascavel" and the "Urutu"). Last October after a slow process of rapprochement, the two countries created the Brazilian-Libyan Mixed Commission and reached an agreement to increase trade.

Cuba's Malmierca Comments on Debt, Olympics

PY211319 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 0900 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Text] Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca has said there is a possibility that President Sarney will visit Havana this year. He added that Cuban leader Fidel Castro might visit Brazil in 1988.

Regarding the Third World countries' foreign debt, Malmierca said it cannot be paid, because it totals over $400 billion.

During his visit to Itamaraty, Isidoro Malmierca explained the reasons for Cuba's boycott of the ROK Olympic Games. He said Cuban participation would not contribute to the peace process of the Korean people, and besides, he added, security for the athletes is not fully guaranteed.

Bridge Loan Needed To Meet January Interest

PY191204 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 18 Jan 88 p 12

[Text] Sao Paulo—Brazil will be forced to resort to a bridge loan if it is to pay the January installment of its mid- and long-term debt, which amounts to $765 million. This was confirmed yesterday morning by Central Bank President Fernando Milliet upon arriving from the United States where he has been negotiating with creditor banks.

Even though Brazil signed an initial scheduled protocol on 15 January, 6 more months are needed for 90 percent of the creditors to approve the plan and start making disbursements.

"While we wait for those disbursements from the creditors, we need a bridge loan to enable us to immediately resume interest payments. This matter must be considered during the negotiations. It can be decided either at the beginning or end of the negotiations, or together with the protocol. However, this will be an issue on our agenda since the situation of our reserves does not allow us to pay for several months without some kind of financing," Milliet stated.

The Central Bank president explained that it is not foreseen that the U.S. Government will participate in the bridge loan. It is thought, he said, that such agreement may be made with the banks.

Fernando Milliet reported that Minister Mailson da Nobrega (with whom he will meet before returning to the United States) will contact the IMF next month.

"The minister is making an evaluation of the economic situation for 1988 in order to attain a realistic and objective position from which to negotiate with the IMF," the Central Bank president said.

"This idea does not have the PMDB's support. The idea of seeking a larger fund with which to finance the Brazilian economic development from the IMF, the World Bank, the Japanese, or any other new sources, to allow us to resume our growth, was already being defended by former Minister Bresser Pereira last year. Therefore it is not new," Fernando Milliet said.

The Central Bank president said that he decided to return to Brazil today because it is a holiday in the United States. He will attend to several domestic economy matters here, but he must resume his negotiations with the Brazilian foreign debt advisory committee this week.

More on Loan

PY181301 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 0900 GMT 18 Jan 88

[Text] Central Bank President Fernando Milliet has said Brazil will need a bridge loan to pay the $765 million January interest on its mid- and long-term foreign debt. Milliet returned from the United States, where he is negotiating with creditor banks.

Fernando Milliet told FIESP [Sao Paulo State Federation of Industries] businessmen that Japanese, Arab, and Canadian banks have interrupted their negotiations with Brazil. According to Milliet, the stalemate is due to a problem in communications.

Milliet said the government had intended to make normal service payments on the foreign debt, but added the situation of the Brazilian reserves did not permit the country to make these payments without financing from the banks.

Milliet said the Brazilian limitation might have been misunderstood by some of the more than 100 banks that participated in the interim agreement meetings.

Sarney Reviews Results of Past 3 Years

PY151710 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 0900 GMT 15 Jan 88

[Excerpts] Evaluating the results of 3 years in office, President Sarney told the visiting 59 mayors of the Alta Mogiana region in Sao Paulo State that his administration has yielded the best results so far in the 1980's.

President Sarney pointed out that during his term in office the country grew by 21.7 percent, had the world's third highest trade surplus, and saw its unemployment rate decrease by 5 percent.

Sarney also pointed out the importance of the mayors' visit, and added that it was proof of their support and confidence in his administration.

[Begin Sarney recording] This visit is also proof of their confidence. Based on this confidence, we will outline the path we will tread in the remaining years of our administration. This path, which is oriented toward the fulfillment of our duties, will show that we are conscious of the great responsibilities placed on our shoulders. [passage omitted] [end recording]

The mayors asked President Sarney to reduce bank interests and to establish guidelines for the renegotiation of the debt of the small and the micro companies, which were created under the Cruzado Plan. The mayors also asked that bank working hours be changed and the car manufacturing sector be exempted from federal taxes.

Chile

Survey Shows Pinochet Losing Plebiscite

PY181442 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1742 GMT 16 Jan 88

[Text] Santiago, 16 Jan (TELAM—ANSA)—A survey conducted by the Center for Studies of Contemporary Reality (CERC) of the Catholic "Christian Humanism Academy" shows de facto President Augusto Pinochet losing the plebiscite.

According to the survey, 40 percent of Chileans would say "no" to the candidacy of Pinochet, while only 31.1 percent would support his continuation in power.

The CERC survey is the second one released to the Chilean public recently; it contradicts the results of a "Gallup Chile" survey that gives Pinochet the majority (39.4 percent in favor and 26.6 against).

The plebiscite, in which Chileans will have to vote either "yes" or "no" on the presidential candidate proposed by the Armed Forces, will be held between 11 September and 12 December 1988, according to Admiral Jose Toribio Merino, Navy commander in chief and Government Junta member.

"The war of the polls" has thus started in Chile, with contradictory results and doubtful methodologies, the meanings of which vary according to the sector or person interpreting them.

The CERC survey, however, has a positive side for Pinochet. The poll, which was conducted in November and December last year, shows Pinochet's image has improved over a similar survey in 1986.

The CERC survey also establishes that 90 percent of Chileans want an electoral solution to the Chilean political crisis, and that 71.1 percent prefer a presidential election with more than one choice, instead of the present plebiscite.

The survey also shows that 89.9 percent of Chileans plan to vote in the plebiscite, and that 70 percent want a democratic system. Only 10 percent of those surveyed prefer military authoritarianism.

PDC Casts Doubt on Gallup Poll

PY160058 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 15 Jan 88

[Text] The National Secretariat of the Christian Democratic Party [PDC] has revealed that the president of the Gallup-Chile enterprise is the former communications director of the military regime, (Carlos Eishton), who is also a former Navy officer and an employee of the current government.

The secretariat went on to say that the Gallup enterprise is only a trademark which was up for sale 3 months ago.

The PDC sent a telegram to the Gallup International office in the United States requesting that it confirm its participation in the poll carried out by its branch in Chile.

The poll results disclosed by Gallup-Chile this week indicate that 39.4 percent of the Chilean people will vote yes during the plebiscite and only 26.6 percent will vote no.

Official Views MIR, FPMR Organization

PY220034 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2200 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Text] Attorney General Ambrosio Rodriguez has reported that the government knows the MIR [Movement of the Revolutionary Left] and the Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front [FPMR] have reorganized. The government knows that three of their five commanders, who command approximately 70 percent of the weapons and most of the operational groups, hold dissident views within their organizations.

Both terrorist groups are close to the Communist Party, and now they belong to an international coordinating board called the International Guerrilla Coordinating Board [Coordinadora Guerrillera Internacional].

The attorney general added that this international organization held meetings in several areas of Argentina last December and this month. It planned a common strategy for the MIR and FPMR to carry out terrorist activities in Chile this year. The MIR will be in charge of carrying out actions in the countryside, while the FPMR will attack urban areas.

MIR Urges Free Elections, Pinochet Ouster

PY200145 Santiago FORTIN DIARIO in Spanish 12 Jan 88 p 11

[Text] The Movement of the Revolutionary Left [MIR] ended its national congress by issuing a document that calls on all opposition forces to defeat the fraudulent plebiscite and "support an active mobilization for free and democratic elections." The congress was attended by MIR leaders and members of the Miguel Enriquez Rebel Youth from all over the country. The MIR is a member of the United Left [IU].

IU political committee member Jeckar Neghme discussed the congress with FORTIN. Neghme said that in the coming months an intense political struggle will shake Chilean society, a struggle in which popular sectors will exert their influence to shape events.

Neghme told FORTIN that the MIR will not enroll in the electoral registries, but will respect those who decide to do so. The MIR also invites all Chileans, regardless of whether or not they register, to "join in an effort to defeat the Pinochet transition and to transform their desire for freedom and democracy into an active driving force."

Furthermore, MIR denounces the regime's pressure and blackmail tactics and its client-pleasing maneuvers. It also calls on all opposition forces fo defeat the fraudulent plebiscite by promoting a popular mobilization.

This leftist party notes that popular participation must be strengthened by encouraging all sectors to stand in defense of their political and social rights, including the right to rebel against the injustice practiced by this regime.

Neghme also recalls that whenever people have struggled in unity, as they did at the University of Chile last year, Pinochetism suffers telling defeats. He expresses doubts about "the negotiations from a position of subordination undertaken by the Aylwin-headed directorate of the Christian Democratic Party because they are most surely bound to fail."

Valparaiso Attack Said Part of Extremist Plan

PY212215 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Excerpt] An extremist plan some Communist leaders have been announcing for March 1988, which envisages using students to wreak chaos, violence, and death, has been moved up with the cowardly attack perpetrated a few hours ago in Valparaiso, where innocent people waiting for medical care suffered an attack by extremists who are spreading throughout our society like a cancer.

The treacherous terrorist attack has been unanimously repudiated by the citizenry.

(Hugo Zepada Coll), a former Catholic priest and congressman, who is now the president of the Liberal Studies Corporation [Corporacion de Estudios Liberales], has said he is angered and confused by the attack, which cannot be explained even by those who are sponsoring this type of action, which the Marxist parties include in the so-called social mobilization drive.

Through its leaders, the PCCh has said it opposes the plebiscite, and intends to boycott it at any cost. [passage omitted]

Polish Seaman Jumps Ship at Punta Arenas

PY211244 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 0900 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Text] A Polish seaman has jumped ship in Punta Arenas out of disgust with the Communist regime in his country. The ship in which (Eduard Basticks) was serving is headed for Antarctica.

Colombia

Three Killed in Venezuelan Border Incident

PA172301 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 1730 GMT 17 Jan 88

[Text] An important report dealing with Colombia involves yesterday's incident on the Venezuelan border when National Guard and Judicial Technical police, PTJ, units from that country entered Colombian territory at Puerto Salcedo near Sarabela, killing three fishermen, including an 8-year-old child, according to information supplied by the authorities in that part of Colombia.

Sarabela Mayor Nubia Celis reported that at approximately 0700, Venezuelan police penetrated national territory in a place known as Isla del Charro in Puerto Salcedo, killing fishermen Heriberto Pena Laque, 23; Nelson Pena Laque, 22; and an 8-year-old child whose identity is not yet known.

Sarabela Mayor Nubia Celis said she has still not received definite orders from the Foreign Affairs Ministry, but was told a special government commission will travel to this part of the country to begin investigations.

Incidents have thus begun again; for the most part, they ended following the 1987 incident involving the corvette "Caldas" in border waters in the Coquibacoa Gulf.

Subversive Group Claims Oil Pipeline Attacks

PA201818 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2345 GMT 18 Jan 88

[Text] Caracas, 18 Jan (DPA)—The Colombian subversive group "Domingo Lain" has claimed responsibility for attacks on Colombian pipelines near the Venezuelan border, according to news reports from San Cristobal, capital of Tachira State in Venezuela. The group also claimed responsibility for the attack on a Venezuelan Army patrol Saturday in the "Cano Colorado" area, which is located at the confluence of the Cutufi and Arauca Rivers on the Colombian-Venezuelan border.

More than 10 guerrilla members died during the attack. The Caracas morning newspaper EL NACIONAL said today that the front's guerrilla fighters issued a communique stating that the attack on the Venezuelan military patrol "was carried out because land is being taken away from Colombians living in Venezuela, Venezuelan cattlemen mistreat and expel Colombian workers, and the gulf [of Venezuela] belongs to Colombia."

Referring to the Colombian oil pipelines, the communique states: "The government refused to accept the guerrilla groups' offer on oil policies and it should not have paid the $800-million fine demanded by the United States." The communique adds: The government has signed contracts that we consider negative because our natural resources are turned over to foreign corporations. Our actions will continue.

The same news report indicates that the Venezuelan soldiers found four bodies at the site of the clash and "others were taken away by their comrades across the Arauca River." There is still no definite information about casualties.

Oil Exports Resume Following Pipeline Attack

PA210340 Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1215 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Text] Bogota—Ecopetrol President Jose Francisco Chona Contreras has reported that Ecopetrol's oil exports will resume today. He also disclosed that the Cano Limon-Covenas oil pipeline has suffered a ninth terrorist attack at Tamalemeque, in Cesar Department.

Exports were suspended because no pumping could be done since 12 January, when terrorists attacked the Cano Limon-Covenas pipeline. Chona told Caracol production in that field is at its lowest level because the storage facilities are filled to capacity.

Chona said that pumping for exports has totaled 170,000 barrels a day. The Ecopetrol executive said exports will resume today.

M-19 Kidnaps Conservative Candidate in Bogota

PA191553 Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1215 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Text] Bogota—The authorities are still without any clues regarding the kidnapping of Andres Pastrana Arango, the Conservative candidate for Bogota mayor, by an M-19 commando unit. After Mayor Julio Cesar Sanchez suspended the search, intelligence agencies limited their operations. However, the candidate's fate is still unknown.

Friends, relatives, and fellow party members of the Conservative politician and newsman who gathered at the campaign headquarters have experienced a very trying time. Anonymous calls were made to the Conservative political directorate shortly after the kidnapping. Pastrana Arango was taken out of this building by 10 men claiming to belong to the M-19. These persons called at 1938 to say they would return him in 2 hours with a message for Colombian President Barco. The calls stopped at midnight and his friends are presently on alert waiting for any news.

Messages of solidarity with the Pastrana Arango family have been received at the political headquarters conveying hope for the young candidate. Former Minister Jaime Arias asked the kidnappers to act with prudence and demanded that Pastrana Arango be released as soon as possible. Meanwhile, specialized police patrols have finished their inspection of three vehicles—two Toyotas and one Mazda—used in the kidnapping.

Paraguay

Stroessner Speech Opens Presidential Campaign

PY161703 Asuncion RPC Television Network in Spanish 1213 GMT 16 Jan 88

[Speech by President Alfredo Stroessner, at a rally in the city of Paraguari to initiate his presidential campaign—live]

[Excerpts] Party members: As the Colorado Party candidate for the 1988-93 presidential term, I address the nation from this historical city of Paraguari. Just like you, I am moved at participating in this vast republican ceremony, which is being held within the framework of our powerful party's electoral campaign for the 14 February 1988 elections. I feel very emotional because I have lived unforgettable years of my military career in this city. [passage omitted]

Several countries in the world have been experiencing the cruel effects of terrorism, the tragic results of violence, and the disgraceful consequences of social disintegration. In these countries, factories and shops are closing down, and workers and employees are being massively dismissed. They are experiencing street agitation, stoppages, and strikes, and public order is being seriously disrespected.

In our country, we have peace in our homes; in our streets, squares, villages, and cities; in the countryside where the peasants labor devotedly in the fields; and in all productive sectors, where the workers contribute with their energy for the progress of the country. All of these people are working in security and under the protection of the laws, which are oriented toward social justice.

We have built this peace for the welfare of the fatherland. We have been preaching this peace and have impressed it upon the conscience of our people. With spiritual grandeur, we have put an end to hatred, we have defeated the sponsors of discord, the evil, the resentful, and the vindictive, to start this era, which is earmarked by a new mentality.

We have concrete reasons to be optimistic when we observe the reality being experienced in our country. [cheers] The institutions of our representative democracy are functioning normally. The people's standard of living is steadily rising, culture is being broadly expanded, and our economic growth is promising. [passage omitted]

Party members, I am sure that the people's votes will ensure the continuity of this peaceful revolution, which will grow in dynamism and vitality to give the peasants more stimuli, to make the workers feel more protected, to allow the youth to continue studying in a safe enviroment, and to ensure the positive effects of social justice in all Paraguayan homes. [cheers]

We will support agriculture and cattle raising, we will create new industries, we will continue to cooperate with those who want to produce more and better products. We will build more schools, colleges, roads, airports, and hospitals, and further support the education of the healthy and vigorous Paraguayan youth.

We do not rest on our laurels. Our continuing and genuine revolution has no place for traitors and disloyal people, for those who lack social sensitivity, or for those who want to vegitate in routine. Our peace rejects sterile conformism because our peace is nurtured by a permanent desire to improve.

There will be more creativity and more work. We have been governing for the people and will continue to do so. We are always ready to stimulate work oriented toward progress that will contribute to the common welfare. The apathy of those who are indifferent to everything and the bitterness of the defeated will not contaminate us.

The government will faithfully continue to fulfill its duties toward society. Some believe it is up to the government alone to work for social progress but we must all work to achieve it. Others are professional complainers and chronic fault-finders who do not realize that what they must do is invest their money in the country. [applause]

We are living in a multiparty democracy. The three branches of the state function normally; there is freedom of the press; and there is multiparty participation in the Chamber of Deputies, the Senate, the municipal boards, and the electoral boards.

The strength of our state of right comes from the current Constitution, which was drafted in 1967 by the Colorado Party, the Radical Liberal Party, the Liberal Party, and the Febrerist Party, which cooperated in an exemplary National Constituent Convention.

In the current times, when the people are the real sovereigns of the country, presidential and municipal elections have been regularly held in strict accordance with the terms of the Constitution and the electoral laws.

The 14 February elections will be held with just this kind of openness and dignity, in accordance with the Constitution, and based on the constitutional guarantees in our country. The various political parties are actively preparing for these elections and are publicizing their government programs and the ideas of their candidates for the presidency, Chamber of Deputies, and Senate.

The democracy in our country is a healthy, strong, and authentically Paraguayan democracy. Our democracy was not created by foreign powers. It is the result of our people's work and only seeks to benefit our people.

We are an active government, and the results of our work are visible. [cheers]

Some, who have deserted democracy and who lack representativeness, are gathering in illegal and totalitarian groups that are not approved by the people, who reject their despicable actions.

The anti-democratic attempts of those who want to create civic apathy, of those who—for absolute lack of representativeness—became resentful and intolerant and now preach electoral absenteeism and voting with blank ballots (?will not affect the results of the upcoming elections). As they avoid the path trodden by the patriots, they also avoid the path that leads to elections. [applause] Instead of submitting their political destiny to the vote of the people, they submit to the sponsors of international subversion and become servants who obey orders that go against the interests of Paraguay, repulsive paid slanderers who stain our country's good name abroad.

Citizens who exercise their right to vote are dignified by it. To exercise this right is to use the weapon that can stimulate one's heart and conscience during the march along the path that leads to the full use of one's civic rights, and can thus guarantee peace and liberty to the country now and in the future.

Those who preach voting with blank ballots, those who attempt to sabotage the elections, and those who pressure the voters to act against their convictions are the ones who are willing to establish a dictatorship in the country. They represent the anti-democratic forces. Nothing and no one will prevent Paraguayans from deciding the great national issues through their votes. [applause, cheers]

Convinced that our country must be free, sovereign, and independent, our soldiers fought the 1870 War and the Chaco War, which were colossal epics of Paraguayan heroism and dignity.

We have never allowed, and will never allow, anyone to interfere in matters that concern only Paraguayans, because we are a race that has never accepted masters or instructors. [applause] In governing, we have never emulated foreign models that often have unsolved domestic problems and that should not try to solve other people's problems before solving their own. We have been managing very well so far, and in Paraguay we are only interested in pleasing the Paraguayan people. As we have no intention whatsoever of judging events in your countries, we will not tolerate any interference in events in Paraguay. [cheers, applause]

In Paraguay, the people are the master, the judge, and the soul of our democracy. We come from the people; we owe what we are to the people; and we concentrate all our energy on governing in accordance with the hopes, wishes, and ideals of the Paraguayan people. [passage omitted]

Party members, during the democratic party convention held on 21 November 1987, when, at the request of the representatives of the honorable Colorado Party members, I agreed to become the party's presidential candidate, I said that I never accept tasks that I cannot accomplish successfully. [applause]

My only preoccupation is the welfare of the Paraguayan people, and I am sure that all of you, who are my dear fellow party members, will always support my efforts, which are devoid of any vanity. I only wish to better serve the interests of the country. [applause, cheers]

I am sure the Colorado Party will have an astounding victory in the elections because it is the party of most Paraguayans. It is the party that preserves Paraguayan dignity; it is Bernardino Caballero's party, which has always been devoted to preserving peace, liberty, and democracy in the country.

Affectionately, I embrace all Colorado men and women who are attending this multitudinous convention in Paraguari. [applause, cheers]. I embrace you with fervor and enthusiasm and assure you that the National Republican Party will win the elections because its strength comes from the people, and because the party's creed is to be faithful to its commitments to the lofty destiny of the nation.

Please take my words, which are full of faith and hope, to all Paraguayan homes and assure all Paraguayans that we have been living and will continue to live in peace to better honor our glorious tricolor flag. [applause, cheers]

Party members, I congratulate you for offering further proof that the Colorado Party does not accept hatred and violence and only supports harmony and fraternity.

Your votes on 14 February will ensure the Paraguayan Republic a fortunate future. [applause]

Colorado Party To Expel Abdon Saguier

PY201510 Asuncion EL DIARIO in Spanish 20 Jan 88 p 8

[Excerpt] J. Eugenio Jacquet, vice president of the ANR [National Republican Association, Colorado Party] has told the press that after the 14 February elections, his party will study the expulsion of Miguel Abdon Saguier from the Colorado Party. He also said: "We do not want him in the party, but unfortunately he became a member."

Jacquet thus confirmed the accusation made by the Executive Board of the Liberal Radical Party that Miguel Abdon Saguier, a leader of the PLRA [Authentic Radical Liberal Party], had joined the Colorado Party in the past. Jacquet said: "Unfortunately, the measures usually taken by the party to prevent this type of infiltration were thwarted. Saguier's family members traditionally have been members of the Liberal Party. However, I do not know if he joined the party in good faith or if he received instructions from his party or from his family to infiltrate our party." [passage omitted]

Venezuela

Border Clash With Colombian Guerrillas Noted

PA172029 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1759 GMT 17 Jan 88

[Text] Caracas, 17 Jan (DPA)—Twelve Colombian guerrillas died yesterday in a clash with the Venezuelan Army near Cano Colorado, Apure State, on the Colombia-Venezuelan border, it was reported today in Caracas.

The subversives, reportedly members of the Colombian Army of National Liberation (ELN), made a "surprise" attack against a group of 20 soldiers patrolling the border area, according to press reports from Caracas. During their withdrawal the guerrillas, identified as members of the ELN's "Domingo Lain" group, abandoned three light machineguns, five revolvers, seven grenades, and hundreds of rounds of ammunition, in addition to subversive propaganda. The victims, most of them young men, have not been identified because they carried no identity papers.

The press reports added that the attackers left evidence that they are holding Rodolfo Possoni Kissela and Saul Aparicio Rosales Casanova, two wealthy cattlemen kidnapped on 12 December 1987.

Lusinchi Urges End to Violence

PA210436 Caracas Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Text] President Lusinchi said today that the recent events at the Colombian border were a response from the Venezuelan Army to an ambush by Colombian insurgents. Lusinchi reiterated his request to Colombian officials for a joint effort to eradicate violence in the border areas.

[Begin recording] [Lusinchi] I repeat, this is part of a constant border surveillance operation.

[Reporter] Do you feel more talks between both countries are needed to solve the problem?

[Lusinchi] This is not a matter of just holding talks. It is obvious we are forced to cooperate, because the problem harms both countries. I would not go so far as to say these events occur because of a lack of dialogue.

If I understood your question correctly, the important thing is for both countries to cooperate in eliminating violence from the border area. This includes the old violence from subversive forces and the new violence linked to drug trafficking. [end recording]

The Venezuelan and Colombian interior ministers will discuss joint measures to solve the border situation in San Antonio, Tachira, next Thursday.